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# SERVICE

# NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

April 26, 1941

No. 15



On May 31, farmers in 40 States will vote on the question of wheat marketing quotas for the current crop. Their ballots, in the referendum called by the Secretary of Agriculture, will decide a matter of the utmost importance to agriculture and the nation as a whole.

Naturally, wherever there are wheat farmers the coming referendum is much discussed these days. Before they vote, farmers want to know what the marketing quotas are, how they work, to whom they will apply, why they are necessary, and many other things about them. It's natural, too, for them to turn to representatives of the Department of Agriculture for information, since the marketing quota system, if approved, will be administered by the Department. It is the responsibility of every field employee of the Department, regardless of bureau, to be ready to provide this information.

This, of course, includes the field staff of the Soil Conservation Service. Every day, some 8,000 field men of the SCS are in contact with farmers, either in their dealings with individual farmers or in meetings of one kind or another. This field staff can do a great deal toward

helping farmers understand the wheat quota system and what it means.

Here are some of the principal facts about wheat and the wheat marketing quota that SCS field men should know.

Prospects are the U. S. will have a wheat supply of about 1,200,000,000 bushels for 1941-42. This is enough wheat to last America two years without growing a kernel. A big crop is on the way and the foreign markets are nearly gone.

A decade ago, a billion-bushel supply meant 40-cent wheat. Last year farmers used the AAA program to get an average return of 85 cents.

This year, supplies dammed up by the war threaten a price collapse, but it need not occur. Through wheat marketing quotas and the AAA program, farmers have the power and the means of dealing with price-breaking surpluses.

Marketing quotas divide more equally among all the farmers the responsibility for adjusting to a limited market. Surplus wheat--above the production from acreage allotments--is kept off the market.

In the national referendum on May 31, farmers will decide whether quotas will be used. A two-thirds majority is required for approval.

If quotas are approved, all farmers may sell without penalty all they produce on their acreage allotments. Farmers who overseed will have to pay a penalty on the

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U. S. Dept. of Agri.  
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## EXTEND TIME TO FILE FOR REPLACEMENT LIST

The Civil Service Commission has extended the time limit in which persons who have been separated from positions in the Federal service may file application for entry on the Emergency Replacement List. The recently issued Personnel Circular No. 96, Supplement No. 19, which sets forth the provisions under which employees are eligible for the List, quotes from the Commission's ruling as follows:

"In order to afford an opportunity to those persons who were not advised of their eligibility for entry on the Emergency Replacement List or who were not advised of the time limit on filing applications, the Commission will now accept applications for the list from any person separated between June 30, 1939, and March 26, 1941, if such applications are received by the Commission before May 1, 1941, or within 90 days of date of separation or effective date of furlough, whichever is later. In the cases of persons who are involuntarily separated from the service after March 26, 1941 the time limit on filing applications prescribed by the regulations (90 days after separation or effective date of furlough) will be adhered to strictly. The Commission has requested that hereafter each person who is involuntarily separated from the service because of a reduction of force be advised of his eligibility for the Emergency Replacement List and of the 90-day time limit on the filing of applications for such list."

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The Land Acquisition Division has been instructed by the War Department to buy 99,000 acres of additional land to extend the areas of five Army camps in the East and Middle West. Field men are now busy appraising and optioning the land which includes 75,000 additional acres at Pine Camp, N. Y.; 2,000 acres at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont; 2,000 acres at Fort Devens, Mass.; 5,000 acres at Fort Sill, Okla.; and 15,000 acres at Fort Bliss, Tex.

## SUGAR LOAF DISTRICT TO MANAGE LU PROJECT

An agreement--the first of its kind--whereby lands of a land utilization project have been made available for use and management by a soil conservation district has been approved by SCS. As a result, the Sugar Loaf soil conservation district in Sioux and Dawes counties in the northwestern corner of Nebraska will manage for the next ten years nearly 80,000 acres of Title III lands and certain range improvements in the Pine Ridge Land Use Adjustment Project.

Under the lease agreement the district is authorized to use the project land for grazing purposes by issuing permits to land occupiers of the district who can otherwise qualify for grazing privileges on Title III lands.

An agreement of similar type is being negotiated with the Great Divide soil conservation district in Moffat County, Colorado, for the use and management of Title III lands in the same county. Pending negotiation of a long-time agreement, SCS has issued a one-year permit covering the whole project of approximately 40,000 acres.

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Farmers and agricultural workers in and around Clarksburg, W. Va. have started a weekly farm page in the Clarksburg paper. A reporter helps them write up all news brought in. C. M. Sperry, a member of the West Fork soil conservation district, has a weekly column about the district on this page.

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In cooperation with the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture, the USDA has just started a new experimental station in Haiti. The new station will be a "budwood increase garden" and will propagate rubber graftings, including an important shipment now being brought to Haiti from the Philippine Islands.

## WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

excess wheat--or store it under seal. They may put their excess wheat under loan at 60 percent of the full rate.

If quotas are voted down, Government loans on the current crop are prohibited by law, because loans on an uncontrolled surplus are an unwarranted risk of public money.

Without loans, wheat farmers would face falling prices. Many would undoubtedly shift to dairying, stock feeding, and poultry raising. In other words, low-priced wheat means lower income for other farmers.

Every wheat farmer has one vote, whether he grows wheat on 20 or 20,000 acres.

\* \* \* \* \*

In addition to its national importance, the wheat marketing quota measure has at least two direct connections with soil conservation and land use.

One of these connections has to do with income. The bankrupt farmer, we know from experience, is not a farmer who will contribute a great deal to conservation. On the contrary, he is more likely to be a soil-miner because he has little alternative. The wheat marketing quotas will serve to retain and strengthen farmer income.

The other connection has to do with land use. The marketing quotas are not an acreage adjustment measure, but because they do place a penalty on the farmer who does not cooperate with his wheat acreage allotment, they encourage a greater compliance. Increased compliance, in the case of wheat, will be important not only in reducing unneeded wheat acreage, but also in obtaining a wider use of soil-holding and soil-building crops.

## CHIEF IS SPEAKER AT HUGE TREE PLANTING BEE

"If we of the United States are ever to succeed in conserving our natural resources for prolonged, productive use, we will need the cooperation of a great many people--farmers, city people, teachers, business men and all the others," said Dr. Bennett at the Grand Haven, Mich., tree planting "bee" on April 19. The Chief, who was the principal speaker at the ceremonies when 83,000 trees were planted on a shifting sand dune, went on to say that what the citizens of Grand Haven and Ottawa County were doing that day was an active example of what he advocated.

"This is an event unparalleled in American history," he said. "For the first time on such a large scale, Americans from many walks of life are turning their cooperative, community energies to the business of conservation instead of the business of exploitation. Instead of destroying trees, we are planting them.

"In a world torn by war, the continuing will of Americans to build--instead of destroy--is a matter of monumental importance. The story of what is happening in Grand Haven today should be carried from coast to coast, and beyond our borders. It is at once a symbol of American spirit and evidence of the American will--without compulsion--to build and rebuild the strength, permanence and productivity of this nation.

"Historians may remember Grand Haven for this."

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Extension of existing electrical lines in Alaska, both for defense and rural uses, will be studied by a special representative of REA who has left for Alaska. All the electrical lines in Alaska are privately owned.



## USDA OFFICIALS STUDY WESTERN LAND POLICIES

Dillon Myer represented SCS in a delegation of USDA officials who traveled through Arizona this past week for the purpose of clarifying the Department's western policies in integrating its action programs. The party spent considerable time viewing the conditions in the Gila River watershed which is considered fairly representative of the irrigation-range country.

Other members of the party were E. G. Arnold, FSA; C. E. Rachford, FS; M. S. Eisenhower, Land Use Coordinator; H. R. Tolley, BAE; and Roy Kimmel, BAE.

After the officials completed their investigation trip on April 13, Mr. Myer went to Albuquerque to spend a few days in the regional office before returning to Washington.

## HOUSING NEED SURVEY OF ALABAMA DEFENSE AREA

SCS has been working with the Alabama land use planning committees in a housing and labor needs survey in the 12 counties which make up the Coosa Valley Defense Area of northeastern Alabama. The planning committees recommended sites for the construction of 3,252 defense houses on farmsteads in the Valley, in addition to the housing requested by the various towns. More than half the farm families in the area, the committee reported, needed better housing facilities.

The Coosa Valley Defense Area includes the Coosa River Ordnance Plant, the Bag Loading Plant, both in Talladega County; Fort McClellan, the Ammunition Depot, and the Firing Range and Maneuver Grounds, near Anniston in Calhoun County; and the Shell Forging Plant at Gadsden, in Etowah County. All or part of each of the 12 counties is within 25 miles of one or more of these defense plants.

## DISTRICT COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The South Muskegon (Mich.) soil conservation district has secured the cooperation of the FSA in getting two loans for the district. The first loan was used to start a cooperative marl pit where co-operators of the district could secure marl at a reduced price. The project proved very satisfactory and the district has been able to pay back the entire loan. The second loan was used to purchase seedling trees which were lined-out in the district line-out beds.

FSA has also given assistance to district cooperators who, unable to secure money to purchase trees or other items necessary in their plan, are given working grants. These work grants never exceed \$30 per month and cover a period of three to five months. The cooperator works these grants out by doing some constructive work on the public land in his community.

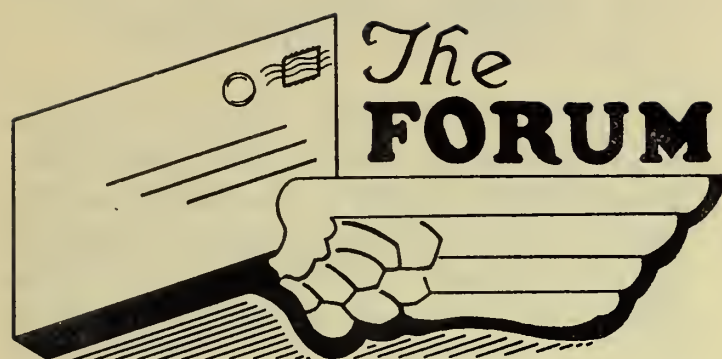
The district is cooperating with the AAA by furnishing all the marl the AAA can use in the district.

## BE CAREFUL, GIRLS

Last February an office girl, the only employee on duty in our Los Angeles, Cal., office, slipped on a newly waxed floor, wrenched her knee and lost four day's time. This is the only lost-time accident in region 10 since November 4, 1940--over five months. This region also established a 3-months no-lost-time accident record for July, August and September of 1940 and had the lowest severity and accident frequency rates of all the regions for 1940. So--BE CAREFUL, GIRLS! Please do your part in eliminating accidents in the SCS.

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Erosion has cut the useful life of over 20% of the water-supply reservoirs of the U.S. to less than 50 years, says the Chief.



EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: Previous to March 7th, the date of my induction into the Army, I was stationed at Colorado City as a Junior Engineer in the SCS. I have enjoyed reading the Service News, and would like to have it to read during the year of Army life. I feel it is important to keep in contact with happenings within the Service, and your publication can do that for me.

Kindly put me on the Service News mailing list, if it is at all possible. Also, I would like the Soil Conservation magazine. (I realize you are not directly connected with it, but I am seeking your assistance.)

I shall surely appreciate any effort you exert in this matter.

J. B. R.

(We shall be glad to send SERVICE NEWS to J. B. R. and to any other SCS conscriptees who want it. The editor of SOIL CONSERVATION says he would like to do the same thing with his magazine but he doesn't have enough copies to go around for Federal and State needs. -Ed.)

EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: Rock crushers are designed to permit adjustment to control the maximum size of crushed stone produced by the crusher. It is possible to adjust the opening so that none of the stone produced exceeds the maximum size of stone required. Such an adjustment, however, greatly reduces the capacity of the crusher. It is also possible to adjust the opening so that any desired percentage

of the stone produced exceeds the maximum size required. The stone of excessive size is commonly referred to as "tailings" and must be returned to the crusher to be run through a second time. If too large a percentage of the crushed stone must be run through a second time, the net productive capacity of the crusher is reduced. Most experienced quarry-men agree that for maximum net production the crusher should be set so that approximately 15 percent of the stone produced will be "tailings" and, therefore, will have to be crushed over again.

There is an analogy between the setting of a crusher for maximum production and the setting of personnel for maximum production. I do not know whether or not the 15 percent factor remains the same, but a person who never has to do any of his work over again makes me just as suspicious as one who has to do too large a percentage of his work a second time. In other words if you set a crusher so as to get a percentage of "tailings" for maximum production why not "set" the personnel to permit a few "tailings" for increased production, rather than wait for perfection.

S. R. S.

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"Cotton House," a prefabricated house which can be erected in 62 man hours, is on view in the patio of the Administration Building as part of a Surplus Marketing Administration exhibit. The house was designed to fulfill a two-fold necessity. first, as an important consumer of cotton and, second, as a major step in low cost housing with special reference to our defense needs. It has the additional advantage in that it can be dismantled and re-erected on another site for additional years of service. The SMA exhibit, which will remain in the patio throughout April, also includes models and picture displays of many new uses which have been devised for King Cotton.



## FRIENDS OF THE LAND PUBLISH NEW MAGAZINE

Friends of the Land, an organization of conservationists whose membership includes many persons of prominence in official and private life, has renewed activities after suspending operations last summer. Just published is the first quarterly issue of the organization's magazine "The Land"; Russel Lord is the editor.

The Friends of the Land Society is dedicated to the conservation of "soil, rain, and man." It was the subject of an editorial appearing in the April 6 issue of the *New York Times*. Under the heading "Defending the Land," the Times said:

"For people familiar with the processes of getting things to grow, national defense means not merely resisting possible invaders but preserving the soil itself. The Friends of the Land, organized a year ago, has decided that this kind of defense is also an emergency and deserves attention now. In the first number of its new quarterly, *The Land*, which has just appeared, it issues its 'Manifesto' over the signatures of its president, Morris Llewellyn Cooke, and others.

"'Over vast areas,' it declares, 'we stand confronted with defaced landscapes, depleted water supplies, grave dislocations in the hydrologic cycle and an all but catastrophic degradation of soil and man. \* \* \* Soil displacement is followed by human displacement. Soil debility soon removes stiffening lime from the national backbone, lowers the beat and vigor of the national bloodstream, and leads to a devitalized society. No matter which political party gains ascendancy as the years go by, whether the swing be from middle Left to far Right, or to the farther Left; whether we remain at peace or go to war again, this fact will remain: so long as we keep on scrubbing off, blowing off, killing off our topsoil, business

(Continued in next column)

## ALL ALABAMA FARM LAND NOW IN S. C. DISTRICTS

Alabama this month became the first state with every acre of farm land in soil conservation districts. Beginning in June 1939, farmers in county after county of that State have gone to the polls and voted for soil conservation districts. By March 29 of this year all but 15 counties had been included within district boundaries. Then the farmers of these counties voted and their ballots, overwhelmingly in favor of district organization, fill in the last gaps in the State soil conservation map.

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Land use problems of the West was the keynote of the 66th annual meeting of the American Forestry Association held in Los Angeles, Cal., on April 15, 16, and 17. John F. Preston, Chief of the Forestry Division; Harry E. Reddick, Conservator of Region 10; Theodore B. Plair, Chief of the regional Forestry Division; and John F. Johnston, in charge of regional Flood Control Surveys, represented SCS at the meeting. Mr. Johnston addressed one of the sessions on the subject of "Management of Agricultural and Grazing Lands in Aid of Flood Control."

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The second meeting of the Committee on Inter-American Cooperation in Agricultural Education has been called for May 2 and 3 at the Department of Agriculture.

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and social conditions in this country will remain fundamentally unsound.'

"The new organization proposed to study, to spread information and to cooperate with agencies in this country and abroad toward the common purpose of keeping the land fertile and so making it possible to feed a healthy civilization. The program looks far beyond these troubled years. It would be a dull soul who would not thrill to its possibilities."



## ORCHARD EROSION CONTROL IS FILM STRIP SUBJECT

"Soil Erosion and Its Control in Orchards" is the title of a film strip now being produced by the USDA. Author of the lecture notes that go with the film is Washington R. O'Brien, district conservationist, Benton Harbor, Michigan, who also selected photographs to be used.

Because relatively few of the old demonstration areas were in fruit sections, observations and results from the Berrien County demonstration are being studied with unusual interest in Region 3. The film strip on soil erosion in orchards is based on observations made since 1935 on the Berrien County project.

## TEXAS PAPER SPREADS CONSERVATION ADVICE

Editor-Publisher Robert C. Ford of the Bartlett (Texas) Tribune deserves a medal for his active interest in soil and moisture conservation. Always an ardent supporter of the erosion control program, Editor Ford recently has been using, in the "Personals" column, perhaps the most-read portion of the paper, editorial fillers urging conservation. Here are a few examples from a recent issue:

"Mr. Land Owner--If unable to terrace, why not use the strip crop method? Be wise and save your soil!"

"No farm owner, no town or community can survive soil erosion."

"Save your farm from soil erosion and you save your town and community."

"Many small towns in Texas today are dead and inactive simply because of soil erosion."

"Opportunities are passing. Take advantage of our soil conservation district plan. Plan to terrace as soon as possible."

## WATER FACILITIES PLAN APPROVED FOR DISTRICT

The approval of the Deuel county water facilities area, which includes all that part of the county outside an already-established water facilities area, marks the first instance in Nebraska in which a water facilities operation plan has been developed and approved for an established soil conservation district.

Previously a part of the Deuel county soil conservation district had been included in the Lodgepole Creek water facilities area. The new area brings the benefits of BAE over-all planning and FSA financing and farm and home management planning in water development to the rest of the district.

## RULE'S "WORKING PLANS" INSPIRES OHIO FARMER

An enterprising Ohio farmer in Butler County recently read Glenn Rule's booklet, "Working Plans for Permanent Farms," and decided not to wait for conservation districts in his State. So he sent an air-mail letter to SCS asking for help in making a land use capability map of his farm and establishing erosion control measures on his land. He is also ready to refence his farm on the contour.

The farmer's letter has been referred to the Dayton office and he will be furnished assistance from there.

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The five-man delegation of American agricultural leaders to be sent to South America by the Carnegie Foundation sailed from New York on April 11. The party will study agricultural conditions in southern Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. The members hope to inspect 50 farms in each of the countries visited. The group will have the cooperation of the USDA and of local representatives of the ministries of agriculture in the various countries.

## OFF THE PRESS

"Toward Soil Security on the Northern Great Plains" by Glenn K. Rule, in collaboration with subject-matter specialists. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1864.

"Conservation Farming for the Sand Lands of the Southern Great Plains" by Tom Dale, in collaboration with subject-matter specialists. Unnumbered publication.

"Better Harvests through Conservation Farming" by R. E. Uhland. Unnumbered publication.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions in the Conestoga Area, Pennsylvania" by Jay A. Bonsteel and Turner C. Bass. Erosion Survey No. 15.

## PRINTERS' INK

"Green Gold" by Forney A. Rankin, information specialist in Washington, in the May *Southern Agriculturist*.

A sketch about Ernest G. Holt, Chief of the Biology Division, and his scientific work for hemispheric unity appears in the Washington Roundup feature of the April *Country Gentleman*.

The March *South Dakota Conservation Digest*, which features conservation of wildlife, contains a double-page spread of photographs furnished by the SCS.

"A Comparison of the Briggs-McLane and the Goldbeck-Jackson Centrifuge Methods for Determining the Moisture Equivalent of Soils" by G. M. Browning, Soil Conservationist at Morgantown, W. Va., and F. M. Milam of the W. Va. Agricultural Experiment Station, in April *Soil Science*.

"The Availameter and Its Use in Soil Moisture Control: I. The Instrument and Its Use" by R. B. Allyn of BPI and R. A. Work, Associate Irrigation Engineer, in April *Soil Science*.

## FIELD MEMORANDA

- 997 Policy and procedure for the disposal of forest products on LU projects.
- 998 Probationary periods and reports. (outlines USDA policy re 6-months and one-year probationary periods; sets time for filing preliminary reports on probationary employees.)
- 999 Age limitations. (Minimum and maximum age limitations for Letter of Authorization employment.)
- 722-B Compensation for holidays. (Latest Comptroller General's opinion re holiday pay states that "indefinite employees" as defined in Uniform Annual Leave Regulations are not regarded as "regular employees" unless and until they have served 6 months as indefinite employees and therefore are not entitled to holiday compensation during the first 6 months' employment.)
- 904-J 1. Military furlough for probationers. 2. Change in status while furloughed. 3. Restoration after military furlough. (Quotes in full Solicitor's opinions re furloughs for military service and training.)

- O -

John Strohm, who is making a tour of Latin America, writes on "Uruguay" in the April 5 *Prairie Farmer*. Mr. Strohm says that Uruguay is more like the U. S. than any other Latin American country he has visited, the inhabitants eating corn on the cob and arguing politics. Most popular breed of cattle is the Hereford, because this breed does better on poorer pastures than do Shorthorns, the second choice.

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John C. Rawe wrote "Our Soil Is Ailing" in the March 14 *Commonweal*.